IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Ferguson, et al. Serial No.: 10/799,178 Filed: March 12, 2004

For: Technique and Instrumentation for Intervertebral Prosthesis Implantation Using Independent Landmarks

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Attorney No.: 31132. 237

99999999 Group Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: Reimers, Annette R.

Customer No.: 46333

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Mail Stop RCE

Coincident with the filing of an RCE in the above-identified patent application, and in response to the Office action of October 19, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.